

HOUSE No. 1683

By Mr. O'Brien of Kingston, petition of Thomas J. O'Brien and Frank I. Smizik for legislation to establish a library assistance program. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF LIBRARY SCIENCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Section 19 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is amended by adding
3 the following paragraph:—
4 The board of higher education, subject to appropriation, shall
5 establish a public librarian incentive program, for the purpose of
6 providing grants to public librarians presently working in a public
7 library in the Commonwealth, who are planning to attend, or
8 attending, an institution of higher education within the Common-
9 wealth, or partner institutions under New England Board of
10 Higher Education's Regional Student Program, to earn a Master of
11 Library Science degree. Said board of higher education shall
12 establish rules and regulations for the program, including the
13 levels of academic, leadership, extracurricular, and other achieve-
14 ment needed to qualify for the grants. Based upon such rules and
15 regulations, the board of higher education shall award a grant
16 equal to full tuition to public librarians who apply from each
17 public library and who qualify for the Master of Library Science
18 assistance program.